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NASHVILLE -- The Tennessee Department of Labor & Workforce Development today announced that the U.S. Department of Labor has approved a petition for Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) for OshKosh B'Gosh. This petition covers all workers of the company in Byrdstown who produced children's knit apparel.

Trade Adjustment Assistance and The North American Free Trade Agreement are programs administered in Tennessee for the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) by the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development. The programs offer assistance to workers whose jobs have been adversely affected by imports from foreign competitors. The certification by the USDOL applies to layoffs which began on January 8, 2000, and will remain in effect until February 5, 2003, when the petition expires.

Under the provisions of the law, TRA and NAFTA allow for retraining while workers are still receiving regular unemployment insurance benefits. Two separate 26-week periods of trade benefits may be obtained for workers while enrolled in approved training after regular unemployment insurance benefits have been exhausted. Workers who would not benefit from retraining may receive only one 26-week period of trade benefit payments. The programs also provide allowances for attempting to secure new employment in other areas and relocating to the new place of employment. Specific instructions will be provided to affected workers through their local Tennessee Department of Labor & Workforce Development office.

Claims for assistance will be taken on as periodic layoffs occur, and claimants should report to the Tennessee Department of Labor & Workforce Development office which is most convenient for them.

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The Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development is an equal opportunity employer. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities

El Departamento del Trabajo y Desarrollo de la Fuerza Laboral es un organismo empresarial que aplica la igualdad de oportunidades. Los Servicios y ayudas auxiliares estan disponibles para los individuos con impedimentos si los solicitan.